



Catawba County Public Health

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Policy for Dealing with the Confinement of Dogs, Cats, or Ferrets after They Have Bitten a Human Being

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 130A-196, any person bitten by a dog, cat, or ferret as well as the owner of the biting animal, must immediately notify the local health director or Catawba County Animal Services. This statute provides the health director with the authority to designate a confinement place for dogs, cats, or ferrets that have bitten a person. Therefore, I direct that any dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten a person shall be confined, for ten (10) days immediately following the biting incident, at the Catawba County Animal Shelter, with a licensed veterinarian in Catawba County or a contiguous county, or, based on the totality of the circumstances and at the health director's discretion, at the owner of the bite animal's home. All expenses related to the confinement are the responsibility of the owner of the animal. The health director has the authority to exempt law enforcement dogs. The health director has the authority to permit the confinement at the owner of the biting animal's home under the following limited circumstances: any required fee is paid in advance, **and** the animal's rabies vaccination is current **or** will be made current immediately at the end of the quarantine period, **and** prior to the animal being released from confinement.

In those circumstances, where there is conflicting evidence as to the residence of the animal or the location that the bite occurred, the animal shall be quarantined at the Catawba County Animal Shelter.

Anyone failing to follow the order of the Health Director shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. In addition, any animal not confined as ordered shall be seized by Catawba County Animal Services and confined for the remainder of the quarantine period, at the expense of the owner.

Signed this the 1st day of February, 2013.

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"Leading the Way to a Healthier Community"

